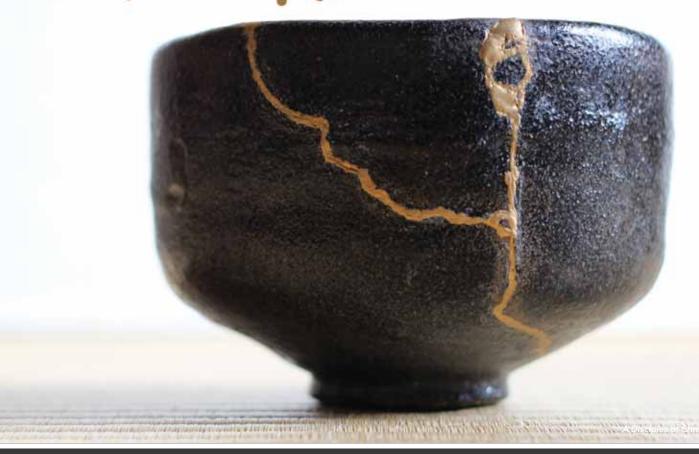


UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH • LENT

UCC JOURNAL · VOLUME XVIII, NUMBER 3 · FEBRUARY-APRIL 2018

STRONG IN THE BROKEN PLACES



LENTEN WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Ash Wednesday • February 14 | 6:00pm in Walker Hall Sunday Worship • February 18-March 25 | 9:00am & 11:00am

Maundy Thursday • March 29 | 6:00pm

Good Friday · March 30 | Noon

Easter Sunday • April 1 | 6:45am—Sunrise Worship Service | 9:00am • 11:00am

Childcare is available for all worship services.

Living the Good News of Jesus Christ with Open Minds and Loving Hearts.





UCC Celebrations

Welcome New Members













Baby Dedications



Son of Lindsay and Jason Becera Little brother to Hudson and Max





Son of Alan and Meredith Garcia
Little brother to Megan, Emily & Sam



Contents

UniversityChristian.org

Title Page
A Message From Our Senior Minister
Special Guest Preacher: Reverend Terri Hord Owens, General Minister & President of the Christian Church2
Lent and Holy Week
Lenten Opportunities
Growing Young
Adult Ministries
Opportunities to Grow and Serve
Living Out Our Faith
Week of Compassion
UCC's Hurricane Harvey Response
Compassionate Care
Connecting
Belltower Series Concerts
Church & The Arts
Children's Ministry
Children's Ministry Registrations
Youth Ministry
Upcoming Events List



A Message from Our Senior Minister

Lent 2018

Strong in the Broken Places

We are entering into the season of Lent. For thousands of years Christians have used this forty-day period leading up to Easter as a time to examine our lives, our relationship with God, and ultimately our faith. As such it is a time traditionally given to increased spiritual attention, contemplation and service.

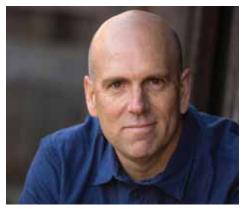
This year our theme for this this sacred season is **Strong in the Broken Places**. This image comes from Ernest Hemingway's A Farewell to Arms. It's a hopeless novel, but in the midst of it comes this great line: "The world breaks everyone, and afterward many are strong at the broken places."

Ask an orthopedic doctor, she will tell you that when a bone is broken that eventually it will grow back even stronger in that place. It takes years sometimes for that healing to occur, but it eventually becomes even stronger in the place where it was broken.

I've recently become fascinated and enthralled with kintsugi (or kintsukuroi), the Japanese method for repairing broken pottery with a special lacquer mixed with gold, silver, or platinum. The philosophy behind the technique is to recognize the history of the object and to visibly incorporate the repair into the new piece instead of disguising it. The process typically results in something stronger and even more beautiful than the original.

Kintsugi reminds us that our wounds and our brokenness can become a source of strength and beauty; the pristine is less beautiful than the broken. Perhaps the shape of who we are as people of faith cannot be fully seen until we've been fractured.

So during this season of Lent, we'll look at some of the



Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman • UCC Sr. Minister

broken places of our lives, and invite God to meet us in our pain and help repair us, transform us into something even stronger and more beautiful than ever before.

My prayer for you during this season of Lent is that you will find the courage and the strength to pay attention to your pain and embrace your brokenness. That you'll do the hard work of the soul to allow transformation to happen, trusting God to shape and mold you into who God created you to be.

Peace to your Lenten path,



Special Guest Preacher • March 4

Reverend Terri Hord Owens, General Minister & President of the Christian Church (DoC)



We are thrilled to announce that Reverend Terri Hord Owens will be our guest preacher on Sunday, March 4!

Rev. Hord Owens serves as General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. She is the first woman of color to be the top executive of a mainline denomination.

A Disciple since young adulthood, Hord Owens was dean of students at the University of Chicago Divinity School and pastor of First Christian Church of Downers Grove, IL prior to her election in July 2017.

Hord Owens' resume includes more than 20 years in corporate America leading diverse teams in data management before she entered seminary. For 15 years, she served as the dean of students at the University of Chicago Divinity School, shepherding a varied student body in both background and theology.

Hord Owens is widely sought after as a preacher, speaker and workshop facilitator. Her ministry and intellectual interests include a theology of reconciliation, cultural intelligence, developing inclusive and multi-cultural congregations, and the mentoring of youth and young adults.

Her sermon will be part of our Lenten series, **Strong in the Broken Places**, and she will focus on Broken Communities. Her text will be Mark 11: 15-19.

Please plan to join us Sunday, March 4, as we welcome Rev. Hord Owens! A light reception will follow the service at which you will have the opportunity to interact with her.

Lent and Holy Week 2018

UniversityChristian.org



STRONG IN THE BROKEN PLACES

Jesus put his own body between them and those who meant to do them harm. He had demolished the rock around their hearts. He had shown them a dangerous new way to live.

Barbara Brown Taylor

Ash Wednesday February 14

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent. It derives its name from the practice of using ashes made from palm branches blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday to form the sign of the cross on the foreheads of participants. This ritual is a symbol of humility and a reminder of our mortality.

From 11:00am to 3:00pm on Ash Wednesday, you'll have an opportunity to walk our Labyrinth and to receive ashes in Walker Hall. At 6:00pm, meet us in Walker Hall for a quiet and meditative worship service, followed by another opportunity to walk the labyrinth.

The labyrinth is a walking meditation; a path of prayer. It has only one path that leads from the outer edge in a circuitous way to the center. There are no tricks to it and no dead ends. Unlike a maze where you lose your way, the labyrinth is a spiritual tool that can help you find your way. Walking the labyrinth can quiet the mind, and encourages meditation and self-reflection.*

You won't want to miss this meaningful start to the Lenten season.

*www.veriditas.org/New-to-the-Labyrinth

Palm Sunday March 25

Holy Week begins as we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Our children will wave palms and lift their voices in song as they lead us into our time of worship on this holy day. The Agape Feast is at 6:00pm in Walker Hall.

Maundy Thursday March 29

Join us for a service of Scripture, Symbols and Song on Maundy Thursday, March 29 at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary. The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin mandatum, which means "commandment." As recorded in John's gospel, on his last night before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and then gave them a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34). Our Disciples Class of 6th graders will be invited to participate in this Holy Week service by reading scripture and placing symbols on the Communion Table for our reflection, and the Chancel Choir will lead the music for this solemn remembrance of the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus. We will celebrate The Lord's Supper as we remember and celebrate the final meal Jesus shared with his disciples.

Good Friday March 30

Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus. It is observed as part of Holy Week on the Friday before Easter. In honor of this solemn occasion, our Labyrinth will be set up in Walker Hall from 11:00am to 6:00pm. At noon, we will have a meditative worship service around the labyrinth.

Easter April 1

We will rejoice in the risen Christ with a Sunrise Service in the Memorial Garden at 6:45 am and glorious services of worship at 9 and 11 am in our Sanctuary. Together we will proclaim with joy that "Christ is Risen, Indeed!"



Lenten Opportunities

Good News, Good Brews

Walter Brueggemann writes that the "Sabbath is not simply about keeping rules but rather about becoming a whole person and restoring a whole society." Join us this Lenten season for our latest gathering of Good News, Good Brews on Wednesdays at 8:00pm for a pint and intentional conversation on Walter Brueggman's book, Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now.



We will explore how keeping the Sabbath enables us to break the cycle of consumption (buy more, achieve move, accomplish more) and focus on what is important: God, other people, and the wholeness God intends. For questions e-mail Rev. Jessica Vacketta, jessica@uccftw.com, or join the Good News, Good Brews Facebook group for more information.

Gather with us on Wednesdays, February 28-April 4, 8:00pm at The Ginger Man, 3716 Camp Blvd., Fort Worth

Agape Feast • Sunday, March 25



Agape, the highest form of love as known through God will be celebrated at this feast. Gather together as a community of faith around the table for a delicious and authentic Mediterranean meal. We will experience worship, fellowship and time to prepare ourselves for the beginning of Holy Week. Join us for the Agape Feast in Walker Hall as we feed our bodies and souls. All are invited for fellowship, a time of prayer, contemplation, and feasting together.

Easter Breakfast

Join us for a light breakfast in Room 150 following the Sunrise Service. All ages are welcome. Preschool childcare is available. Children and youth Sunday School classes will not meet on Easter Sunday. *Please contact Rev. Jessica Vacketta with questions, jessica@uccftw.com.*

Easter Plant Orders

Honor, celebrate, appreciate, or remember someone special in your life with the donation of Easter or Calla lily plants, palms or ferns. Plants are \$25 each and will be used to enhance Easter Sunday worship. Order by Sunday, March 25. Forms are available at the Reception Desk, the Arches Information Desk or online. Contact pam@uccftw.com for assistance.

Lenten Devotionals: Following the Way*

From Chalice Press

As we strive to take Jesus' message seriously, it's important for us to stop and ask questions: What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus? How do we walk with him along the way?

The earliest Christians were referred to as "followers of the way," and the prophet Isaiah spoke of what it would take to prepare the way for the arrival of God's anointed one. A focus on the way of Jesus, as laid out in John's Gospel, helps us follow in his footsteps and see both his choices and priorities; reminders from Isaiah help us see that the way of Christ is rooted in justice.

All are invited to pick-up one of these devotionals from Chalice Press and take time to daily draw near to God and follow the way: the way of Jesus, the way to the cross...the way to new life. Each daily devotion includes a scripture, reflection, and closing prayer.

Additionally, the ministry staff will e-mail a weekly Lenten reflection, where they offer thoughts on the broken places of life's journey.



Sign up to receive devotional emails by visiting our website and clicking the link

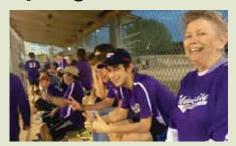
"Email List Sign Up" at the bottom of each web page.

*Following the Way is edited by Nanette Banks, Laura Phillips, and Lara Blackwood Pickrel, and written by The Bethany Fellows, a collection of pastors in the first five years of professional ministry.

Growing Young

UniversityChristian.org

Spring Softball



Softball season is right around the corner. Come join the team—if you can't join us then come root, root, root for the home team! Women and men ages 16 and up (age as of the first game of the season) are welcome to join the UCC team. Games are Friday evenings at Gateway Park in Fort Worth from March 1–April 27. The cost to play is \$25 and includes a jersey. Sign-up online at UniversityChristian. org. For more information contact Rev. Jessica Vacketta, jessica@uccftw.com.

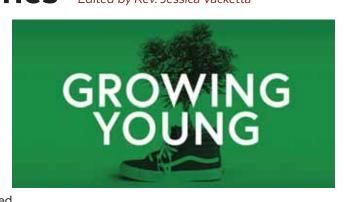
Parents' Night Out

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Need a date night or just a little break? Then Parents' Night Out is your answer! UCC would love to host your kids (infants to 5th graders) for a fun night at the church while you enjoy an evening out. The next Parents' Night Out is Friday, April 27 from 6:00–9:00pm. Kids need to eat dinner before or bring it with them. Cost is \$5 per child, \$10 max per family. Register online by April 19 under "Events" at UniversityChristian.org.

Bridging the Generation Gap with Stories by Caleb Roose, Fuller Youth Institute Edited by Rev. Jessica Vacketta

In a country starkly divided over political and social issues, it can be easy to vilify those with whom we disagree. Being civil, let alone empathetic, scarcely crosses many of our minds. Some of the current generational divides can feel just as polarized.



In a world so divided, how can we, as Christians, bridge the gap?

One possible answer: stories. By experiencing others' stories, whether through listening, sharing, reading, or watching a film, those from different generations can gain empathy for one another. For example, Pixar's *Up* invites us to empathize with Carl, a retired widower whose love for life has all but vanished. At the outset of the film, it is easy to dismiss Carl as a stereotypical "grumpy old man." However, the heartbreaking montage of his former married life allows viewers to understand and empathize with Carl on a much deeper level.

By engaging with stories, we can begin to relate to those who are not necessarily like us. Relating to others leads to empathy, and empathy has the potential to turn judgment into hospitality.

Why Stories Matter?

- 1. We engage others' perspectives.
- 2. We open up to others' pain.
- 3. We humble ourselves.

In a climate rife with division, storytelling—and story-listening—can be a bridge between generations. The three most important words we can say to one another, at any age? "Tell Me More."

Growing Young Book Study Beginning In February

Are you interested in helping generations grow and thrive at UCC? We invite you to join a Growing Young book study this Lenten season. This book isn't just about young people, it's about hope. It offers 6 essential strategies to help churches engage younger generations in ways that "breathe vitality, life and energy into the whole church."

Two groups will meet:

- Sundays at 5:00pm, February 18–March 18 and April 8–15, College Lounge*
 Led by Rev. Jessica Vacketta
- Tuesdays at 12:00pm (bring your lunch), February 20–April 7, 3rd floor kitchen* Led by Barbara Tucker

*Childcare available for both by reservation

For more information and to reserve childcare e-mail Jessica@uccftw.com



Adult Ministries

Men's Ministry

The Men's Ministry has been active over the last several months and the committee is busy planning events for the spring. We are thankful to those who participated in our recent activities which included:

- · Men's breakfast on Saturday December 1—Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman speaker
- Installed shelf lining in the church kitchen cabinets and inventoried the dishes
- Performed stage build and strike for the Boars Head Yule Log festival
- · Helped serve and clean up after lunch at the Reel Religion event
- · Held a community work day on February 3
- Preparing and serving food at the Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper February 13

While our Mission is "Connecting men in fellowship through service, food, and fun", we welcome and encourage participation by both men and women of all generations. Please keep an eye out for future activities in the church bulletin and the weekly update. For more information or to be added to the email distribution, contact Mark Alland at mark.alland@att.net.





Visiting Scholar Talk: Dr. Matthias Henze

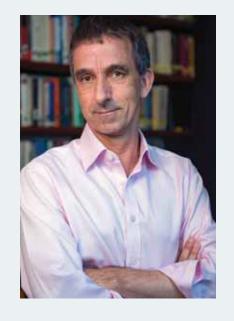
Wednesday, May 16 7:00pm • Room 207

Dr. Henze is a Lutheran scholar and professor of Hebrew Bible and Early Judaism at Rice University in Houston. He recently published a book, *Mind the Gap: How the Jewish Writings Between the Old and New Testament Help Us Understand Jesus.* He invites readers to become familiar with at least some of the Jewish texts from the gap years, a period of at least 400 years, and learn what they can and cannot tell us about Judaism in the New Testament.

In a recent interview, Henze said "My interest in *Mind the Gap* is in the worldview and theological concepts in general that are taken for granted in the New Testament but that are never explained, such as the expectation of the Messiah as a divine agent of the end-time, or the belief in demons and evil spirits and all they represent, to name only two examples."

Dr. Henze will give an overview of the Jewish world of the New Testament as he discusses his book, which grew out of lectures he has given at various synagogues and churches. This event free and no reservation is needed to attend.

Childcare available by reservation online by Wednesday, May 9.



UCC Women

Women's Ministries engages women in meaningful enrichment, spiritual growth, study and worship while advocating for and reaching out to women in our community and around the world. *Contact Rev. Cyndy Twedell, cyndy@uccftw.com, for more information.*

Upcoming Activities:

White Elephant Gift Exchange | Friday, February 23 • 6:00pm

What do you do with those gifts you receive that just aren't YOU? You hate to take it to Goodwill. After all, it was a GIFT. Perhaps a re-gifting opportunity will come along? But if you didn't like it, would the next person? So now it's in a closet or drawer, taking up valuable room. (*The Art of Tidying Up* guru would NOT approve).

Let us help you out. Wrap up that gift and bring it to the Women's Ministry White Elephant Gift Exchange and let's have some fun with it. Bring an appetizer and your favorite beverage to share. RSVP to mgroom@uccftw.com and get directions to our host's home.

Latte with the Ladies

We welcome and invite women of all ages for fellowship over morning coffee at local coffee bistros at 9:00am on the second Saturday of each month.

- March 10 9:00am | Black Rooster on Camp Bowie
- · April 14 · 9:00am | Avoca on Magnolia
- May 12 9:00am | Press Cafe at Clearfork





WiLD Women Book Club

The book club (open to all) meets monthly at Cat City Grill at 6:00pm on Mondays (February 19, March 19, April 16) and Tuesdays at 11:30am in Room 150 (February 20, March 20, April 17). Both gatherings discuss the same book.

February—Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

March-Exit West by Mohsin Hamid

April—Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann

The Trinity Brazos Area Disciples Women's Retreat at Disciples Crossing | April 27-29

"By Our Love" is the retreat theme from the theme song, "We Are One in the Spirit." Register at tbawm.com.





Opportunities to Grow and Serve

A Letter of Thanks from the Children's Closet

The UCC Children's Closet would like to thank everyone at University Christian Church and all its community partners for making this a banner year for the Closet in helping children and families in need.

We set a goal to give out 7,500 new school uniforms but have surpassed that goal and given out 8,700 uniforms! In addition we gave out 2 uniform shirts to all the children in the four new Fort Worth Elementary Leadership Academies. The mission of the Children's Closet is to dress Fort Worth children with dignity and proper uniforms so they will want to stay in school.



None of this is possible without the generous support of University Christian Church and the community.

The Children's Closet, open Mondays and Thursdays, welcomes volunteers. Contact Rev. Cyndy Twedell, cyndy@uccftw.com

Prom Dreams Boutique Opens March 22

Thanks to the generosity of University Christian Church and friends, Prom Dreams will once again open its doors from March 22–May 5. The boutique will be open Thursday evenings from 5:00–7:00pm and Saturdays from 10:00am–12:00pm.

This ministry is possible because of dresses and accessories donated throughout the year, and volunteers who help young women and their families say "yes" to the dress. Donations may be dropped off at the reception desk at any time.

A volunteer orientation will be held Thursday, Febraury 22 at 5:30pm at the Boutique.

E-mail promdreams@uccftw.com to learn more and to sign up for a volunteer position.



Ways to Assist Our Neighbors in Need



The South Central Alliance of Churches emergency food pantry is sourced entirely by donations from member churches and the community. SCAC is grateful to UCC for toiletries collected in February and canned goods gathered in May to stock their shelves.

South Central Alliance of Churches, the local outreach arm of University Christian Church, is made up of 14 churches, serving our neighbors in zip codes 76104, 76109 and 76110. It provides both case

management and emergency assistance including food, rental assistance, utility assistance, bus tokens, gas vouchers, toiletries and baby items.

During February UCC will collect toiletries for South Central Alliance of Churches. Individuals, Sunday School classes, and other UCC groups are encouraged to select one or more of the following items to collect and deposit in the blue bin which is located near the Reception Desk: shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, bar soap, toilet tissue, deodorant, razors and shaving cream. Regular size containers, rather than travel size, are requested.

During May we invite you to dropoff non-perishable food items in the collection bin by the Reception Desk.

Suggested items include:

- canned meats and fish, fruit, vegetables and soup
- macaroni and cheese, hamburger helper, tuna helper, rice and pasta.
- · powdered and evaporated milk
- pudding or custard
- · baby formula
- peanut butter
- dried beans

Monetary donations are also welcomed with checks made payable to UCC, noted as a donation for SCAC, and placed in the collection plate or left with the receptionist. You can also donate online and designate the payment to "February Toiletries Collection" or "May Canned Food Challenge."

Living Out Our Faith

UniversityChristian.org

Mission Pilgrimage 2018

A truly transformational and wonderful adventure awaits any who participate in the 2018 UCC Mission Pilgrimage opportunities. For additional information on the missions below, *please contact Rev. Cyndy Twedell, Cyndy* @uccftw.com.







Spring Break Hurricane Harvey Response • March 11-17

This mission pilgrimage offers the opportunity to assist in efforts to rebuild after the devastating destruction of Hurricane Harvey and connect with those in the midst of putting their lives back together. Our group (14 years old and older) will work with Volunteers in Mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Week of Compassion to assist in rebuilding Iglesia Cristiana Betania in Corpus Christi, Texas. During the week we will be housed in First Christian Church of

Corpus Christi, preparing our own meals, sleeping on the floor and learning about relief efforts in Southeast Texas. We will travel together in vans. \$300. A \$50 deposit is due immediately.

Navajo Mission Pilgrimage in partnership with Broadway Baptist Church • June 8 – 16, 2018

We will work with Living Springs Baptist Church, southwest of Counselor, New Mexico and camp in a fairly remote area with restrooms and showers. Our work will include roofing and other church repairs, assisting with Vacation Bible School for 60–70 children, sharing together in worship and meals and experiencing Navajo life. \$150. An additional \$50 transportation fee if you choose to travel in the rented van.

Nicaragua Mission Pilgrimage • July 15–22

We will again be serving with Chococente Christian School and La Mision Cristiana in Managua, \$1750. A \$250 deposit is due March 30.



Fifth Annual Rice and Beans Arroz y Frijoles Cook Off

Join us Sunday, February 25 at 12:15pm in Walker Hall as we support the July Mission Pilgrimage to Nicaragua and enjoy Nicaragua's classic cuisine, *arroz y frijoles*, rice and beans!

The cook off is a competition challenging UCC groups—youth groups, college groups, Sunday school classes, men's groups, women's groups, choirs, any group or inspired individual—to come up with the best, most interesting, fun or unusual dish. Prizes will be awarded! *Email Michelle Groom at mgroom@uccftw.com by February 19 to enter.*

Meal cost*: \$10 for adults, \$3 for children.
*All proceeds benefit the UCC Mission Pilgrimage to Nicaragua.

UCC will once again travel to Nicaragua July 15–22. Those interested in participating in the Nicaragua Mission Pilgrimage should plan to stay after the cook off to find out more. Dios le bendiga!



Week of Compassion



Week of Compassion February 18-25

Through our sharing, we get a taste of the generosity of God, who does "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine." When we look at suffering in the world, we can become discouraged, unable to see past the difficulty. It is easy to feel overwhelmed when we look at all the places of need in God's world, but there is hope! Better yet: we are that hope!

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development

mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. WOC seeks to equip and empower disciples to alleviate the suffering of others through disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable development and the promotion of mission opportunities.

UCC will receive monetary contributions to Week of Compassion on Sundays, February 18 and 25.

Sunday Morning Opportunities Will Also Be Available

On February 18, people of all ages are invited to Walker Hall at 10:00am to learn more about the work of Week of Compassion, participate in a food resources simulation, and work TOGETHER to learn and discuss how God is using us and CAN use us to transform God's world.

On February 25, we once again invite you to Walker Hall to learn about the work of Week of Compassion and their partners

from UCC members and staff who went on pilgrimage this fall to Vietnam and Cambodia with Week of Compassion and Church World Service. Join us for a presentation of stories and pictures from their time in Southeast Asia.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu put it succinctly when he wrote, "we are the agents of transformation that God uses to transfigure [God's] world."

The Worst Humanitarian Crisis...

January 30, 2018 · Article from weekofcompassion.com

It has been called the world's most under-reported crisis and the world's worst humanitarian crisis since World War II. The famine in the east African countries of Kenya and the South Sudan has quietly killed thousands and thousands of men, women, and children.

In Kenya, 2.7 million people, a number equal to the population of the states of Wyoming and Montana, are at high risk of starvation due to the ongoing drought that has severely affected the ability of families to grow enough food to feed themselves. With too little water, caused by several years of negligible rainfall, livestock have also died in record numbers. Andrew Fuus, a staff member with Church World Service. says in many parts of Kenya, "your livestock is everything...your food, your savings account, your social status."

The crop failure rate has been a staggering 70%—which has led to exorbitant prices for food, a cost that families (already struggling to make any money from their failing crops) cannot pay. Fuys notes that in certain parts of the country, markets completely collapsed so that no food was available even if families had money to pay. Cash for work programs and emergency food distributions through ACT Alliance partners help families meet their needs. Additionally, communities have begun farming two early maturing/ drought tolerant crops, have begun raising small-breed animals like shoats, and have received training in livestock disease control.

ACT Alliance, in responding to this ongoing crisis, notes that "children, pregnant women, new mothers and the elderly [are] bearing the brunt of the calamity." Moreover, the drought and famine affected areas where the malnutrition rate was already the highest in the country. Improvements in water technologies, such as sand dams and rainwater harvesting, aim to alleviate the emergency situation and provide sustained resources for the community for the future.

Water is life, and where there is not enough water families starve, babies die from diseases caused by poor hygiene, hungry adults are increasingly unable to work, and



Community members participate in a cash-for-work program as part of drought response in Kenya implemented by ACT Alliance member and Week of Compassion partner CWS. Photo by CWS.

nations whose economies are hobbled are increasingly unable to help their people as food prices reach unattainable levels. Fuys notes that during the worst of the drought, the price of staples went up more than 30% in many places in the country. Where there was food available, there was often no money and ACT Alliance creatively used cell phone money transfer technology to give families small amounts of money to tide them over, or to help with school fees or health needs.

Your gifts to Week of Compassion have helped make possible these responses. Your continued generosity can help bring life-giving water to our neighbors in Kenya, South Sudan, and around the world. Thank you.

Week of Compassion. "The Worst Humanitarian Crisis" www.weekofcompassion.com, 30 January 2018.

UCC's Hurrican Harvey Response

UniversityChristian.org

Hurricane Harvey

Hurricane Harvey pounded Southeast Texas in August and UCC was quick to respond with generous gifts to Week of Compassion for almost \$6,000, plus \$12,000 from UCC Outreach Funds. Our UCC WeekDay School also rallied to help a daycare center hit by Harvey. The WDS children conducted a coin drive and raised enough money to buy a new Cozy Coupe for Miss Shelley's Lil' Wranglers!

Our Spring Break Mission Pilgrimage will travel to Corpus Christi to help with rebuilding efforts at Iglesia Cristiana Betania. And we just extended our support (including financial contributions from Outreach Funds) in partnership with Cypress Creek Christian Church in Spring, Texas. We continue to pray for these and so many others still struggling to recover.

Including Puerto Rico. Our own Dave Martin was called in shortly after the hurricane to serve as part of a group of Amateur Radio operators who volunteered to provide communications for the federal and local emergency responders. The group reported to the Joint Operations Center in San Juan and worked to connect hospitals and other organizations on the island.

Six months after Hurricane Maria, much of Puerto Rico is still without electrical power. Rural areas and places in the mountains struggle to get food and water. The Christian Church in Puerto Rico appreciates our continued support and prayers. Sill in disaster stage, it will be months before they are ready to receive volunteers to help with rebuilding.

The summer's hurricanes aren't in the news much anymore. But the hard work of recovery continues. We haven't forgotten our brothers and sisters working to pull their lives together. Join UCC in efforts to continue to offer our prayers, our financial support and our assistance as we work together to share in healing and hope.







Images of Cypress Creek Christian Church and some of the damage suffered.



Compassionate Care

Pastoral Care

One of the most important ways we exhibit our love of Christ and for each other is by caring for each other in times of crisis. Staff ministers are always On-Call if you have a pastoral emergency. We have a dedicated Prayer Team, caring Elders, a group called Church Friends who visits our homebound, and a loyal Hospital Callers team. In addition, there are many who give of their time and their talents to usher at funerals, deliver food to the sick, and share God's love with all they meet!

UCC is committed to providing caring and confidential Pastoral Care to all who need it, and there are several ways you can contact us if you or someone you know needs support.

Phone: The church phone number is 817-926-6631. You may call this number at any time. If you reach us after normal business hours, follow the prompts and leave a message. An On-Call minister will contact you.



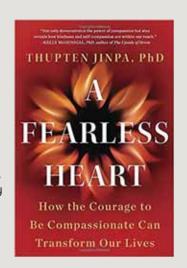
Email: You may send any prayer request or pastoral need to pastoralcare@uccftw.com

Pastoral Care Request Form: Located at the bottom of every page on our church website, www.universitychristian.org, there is a Pastoral Care Request Form. Simply click the link and fill it out. Your confidential request will go directly to a minister.

Compassionate DFW-A Fearless Heart

In partnership with Compassionate DFW, the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) and the Crow Collection for Asian Art, University Christian Church will host a panel of faith and civic leaders to reflect on the book "A Fearless Heart" by Thupten Jinpa, PhD on Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00pm in Walker Hall. Together, we will discuss compassion in our everyday lives. Read the book. Network with like-hearted citizens. Inspire and be inspired together. FREE BOOKS AVAILABLE.

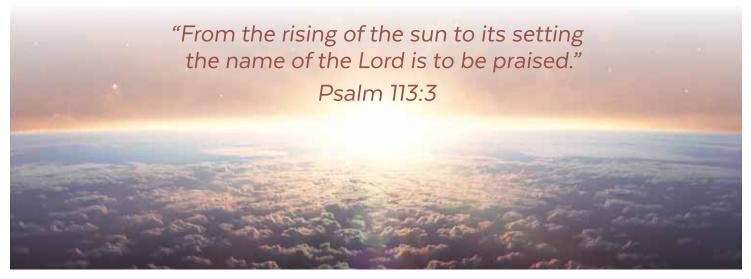
Panel discussions are also being held at Islamic Association of Collin County on January 15, Congregation Beth Torah on January 24, First United Methodist Church, Dallas on February 5, North Park Presbyterian Church on February 11. The series concludes with a keynote lecture and reception with the author, Dr. Thupten Jinpa on February 27 at 7:00pm at First United Methodist Church, Dallas.



Connecting

UniversityChristian.org

Earth Stewardship Sunday • April 22, 2018



UCC will join with faith communities around the world in celebrating Earth Stewardship Sunday in our worship services on April 22. At 10:00am people of all ages are invited to Walker Hall to learn practical tips and simple practices to care for Gods Creation at home, school, church and in our community.

Caring for God's Creation invites you to commemorate the 48th anniversary of Earth Day with a weekend full of opportunities to hear, learn and experience God's abundant gift of creation. Watch for more details about ways you can join the Caring for God's Creation Committee in our collective love for the Earth.

Newcomers Class

Welcome

All are welcome to be a part of the Newcomers Class! Join us Sundays, March 4, March 11 and March 18 at 10:00am in Room 201.

The Newcomers Class offers an opportunity to get to know others, learn about UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Questions are always welcome.

Invite a friend to be part of this informative class.

For more information, please contact Michelle Groom at 817-926-6631 ext. 138, or email her at mgroom@uccftw.com.

ways to connect ways to grow ways to serve

Invite and Bring A Friend!

University Christian Church has recently experienced a pivotol change through the arrival of our new Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman.

As a result, our energy and excitement to live out our faith have been reignited. We are blessed to experience it each Sunday as we worship and listen to Russ' dynamic sermons.

It is a wonderful time to be a part of this community, and a perfect time to invite your friends and neighbors to experience our Sunday worship services. Sharing our faith and our love for God is the greatest gift we can give to one another, inside these walls and beyond.



Belltower Series Concerts

A Voice Recital



Sunday, February 25 · 2:00pm **UCC Sanctuary | Free Admission**

This recital will feature vocal works by J. S. Bach, Johannes Brahms, Georges Bizet, Antonín Dvořák, Giuseppe Verdi, and "Prayers from the Ark" by Theron Kirk.



"Elijah" Oratorio on Sunday, May 6 • 7:00pm **UCC Sanctuary | Free Admission**

On Sunday, May 6, at 7:00pm, the Chancel Choir and orchestra will present Felix Mendelssohn's famous oratorio, "Elijah" in our Sanctuary. It depicts events in the life of the Biblical prophet Elijah, taken from the books 1 Kings and 2 Kings in the Old Testament. Music and opera lovers of all kinds will appreciate the dramatic treatment of the life of the prophet - summoning the people to righteousness, performing miracles, struggling against idol-worshippers, confronting a wicked queen, and rising to heaven in a fiery chariot.

Mendelssohn's final and reverent composition is one of the most successful oratorios of the Romantic Period. It is modelled on the oratorios of Bach and Handel, but its lyricism and use of orchestral and choral colors clearly reflects the composer's own genius. Ever since its British premiere in 1846, "Elijah" has enjoyed wide audience appeal, largely due to its stirring choruses. The choir often acts as the people but also comments on the action, like the choir in Greek drama.

We are thrilled to welcome baritone Jeffrey Snider back to UCC in the role of Elijah. Dr. Snider serves as an associate professor of voice at the University of North Texas. He has performed extensively as a concert artist and on the operatic stage. Some may remember his solo appearance singing "Messiah" at UCC a number of years ago.



Church & The Arts

UniversityChristian.org

Church and The Arts—Trip to Tulsa

May 4-6, 2018





Join UCC friends on an exciting road trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma to explore the city's vibrant art scene. We'll visit the fabulous Philbrook Museum and Gardens, and experience a very special dinner together on the outdoor terrace overlooking the 23 breathtaking acres of the museum gardens (hoping the weather cooperates.) The Philbrook is a world-class museum showcasing nine collections of art from all over the world, and spanning various artistic media and styles.

We'll also visit the Gilcrease Museum which houses the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of art

and artifacts of the American West. Included with our admission will be the temporary exhibit Norman Rockwell: Behind the Camera.

On Saturday evening we will have a tour of the Art Deco landmark Mayo Hotel, followed by a private dinner there. Before leaving on Sunday morning we'll attend worship services at the beautiful First Christian Church in downtown Tulsa.

The cost for the trip is \$365 per person (based on double occupancy hotel rooms). The cost includes transportation by chartered coach, 2 nights hotel accommodation at Hampton Inn &

Suites, museum admissions, 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 2 dinners. The plan is to depart UCC at 8:00am on Friday, May 4, and return at 5:30pm on Sunday, May 6. The single supplement is \$105. The trip falls on a weekend when choir members will not be singing for Sunday services; and we will return in ample time for the UCC concert starting at 7:00pm.

Space is limited to 36 guests. To sign up please contact Rachel Ngurukie, rachel.ngurukie@uccftw.com.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to enjoy a weekend-long fellowship with UCC friends and art lovers.

Attention All Artists!

The Church and the Arts Committee invites our many creative UCC members to share your decorative artwork with everyone at this year's UCC Members Decorative Arts Exhibit on Sunday March 4 from 10:00am to 2:00pm in Room 207. This is an intergenerational exhibit of creative crafts and decorative items crafted from various materials such as jewelry, needlework, sculpture, pottery, furniture, wood and metal works, carpentry, calligraphy, clothing, weavings, collages, and more.

Please complete the entry form located in the Arches or at the Reception Desk. For more information contact Joyce Raessler, jrcompanyjoyce@gmail.com.





Children's Ministry

Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday



UCC's annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Palm Sunday morning. Our Threes through Kindergartners begin their outdoor hunt for eggs at 10:00am. The egg hunt will be followed by preparing to process into the Sanctuary, wave palm branches and sing at the 11:00am worship service. Our Walkers through Twos will have opportunities to hunt eggs through the morning in our Nursery area.

Our Journey Land children will join together in Walker Hall for Camp Sunday and an introduction to Disciples Crossing summer camp opportunities. All parents, grandparents, family members, and kids at heart are invited to join us for the Camp Sunday fun at 10:00am. This is a great opportunity to ask questions about camp and sign up to ensure the Early Bird Camp Rate. Journey Landers will go outside to hunt eggs at 10:25am. After the egg hunt, Journey Land children will lead us into the 11:00am worship service waving palm branches.

For more information please contact Kera Watts, kera@uccftw.com.

Share in Lent With Your Family

by Rev. Kera Watts

Our children will be walking alongside us as we journey through Lent. Our theme for the season, Strong in the Broken Places, will remind us that through challenge, persistence, and even pain, we can find places of strength. For children, the idea that something broken can be transformed into something stronger is complicated. For example, our children are more inclined to recognize that when a toy breaks, it rarely comes back to working condition; instead it is often tossed aside.



To help children begin to have a framework for the concept of **Strong in the Broken Places**, take time to intentionally point out how they are growing and changing and becoming stronger. A child that struggles with math at school and works and practices and becomes better at math facts has become stronger through work. A child learning to do a cartwheel will fall and stumble and keep trying until they are strong enough to put all of the pieces together to tumble through the air with control and strength. In each of these scenarios, the strength comes through practice and effort and fills a place that was once broken and unable to work in the way the child wanted.

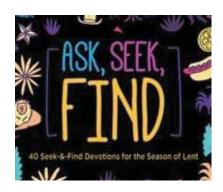
It is important that we work to strengthen places in our spiritual lives too. I encourage you to focus on the spiritual practice of prayer with your children during this Lenten season. See page 15 for ideas to help you be intentional about increasing your family's prayer practice and finding strength in prayer during Lent.

Prayer Ideas for Children and Families

- 1. Pray for others each day. Make a list of those you are praying for each day. Send a note and let someone know that you said a prayer for them.
- **2.** Practice different ways of praying. There is never a "right way" to pray. Sing, shout or be in slience.
- **3.** Prayer can be like a conversation—no special words or phrases are needed. Even a one word prayer from a toddler is important and meaningful.
- 4. Use your body in prayer. Run, jump, dance and move while praying together.
- **5.** Use your imagination in prayer. Imagine together the person or situation you are praying for; imagine God's light and love surrounding others. Talk about what you imagine when you pray.
- **6.** Practice a breath prayer—a short phrase, repeated throughout the day. For example, "Be still and know that I am God," or simpler, "Help, thanks, wow!"
- 7. Practice silence. Not for long periods of time, but it is important for children to practice being still and listening at a time when the entire family is practicing this prayer together. One minute might be a good start and see where you can go as you practice being still together in prayer.



Lenten Devotions for Children



Let's take a good look at Lent. What hidden sights will we see? A robe? A palm leaf? A wooden cross? Now that we've found them, just what do these hidden objects mean? This season, all families with children up to fifth grade will receive the Lenten Devotion book, Ask, Seek, Find. Children and families can search through brightly-illustrated Seek-and-Find pictures for the hidden objects that tell the story of Jesus' life. Daily rhymes, devotions and Bible verses will help children walk through the Lenten season. Additional copies of the devotions for grandchildren or friends will be available in The Arches.

Sunday Night Programs for Kids

JYF (Junior Youth Fellowship) for all kids first through fifth grades meets Sunday evenings from 5:00–6:15pm in room 211 and joins Snack Supper with youth followed by fun and games until 7:15pm. Join us during Lent as we learn about the Passover meal and play, and play, and play.





Children's Ministry and Registrations

UCC Weekday School Registration

Weekday School is a high quality preschool program serving children 8 weeks through Kindergarten. The program focuses on planning developmentally appropriate learning experiences and providing opportunities for children to learn through play. Activities are provided in all major areas of learning, such as language, literacy, math, social studies, art, science, music and social emotional skills. We offer additional enrichment activities during the school day through Stretch n Grow, TCU Music, our community garden and TCU nutrition classes.

Weekday School is currently registering for the upcoming 2018-19 school year. For more information or to set up a tour, please contact Robin Doyle at robin.doyle@uccftw.com.

Weekday School Spring Party!



Friday, April 6, 2018 • 6:30pm

The annual Weekday School Spring Party will take place at the MOPAC Event Center. This is the annual fundraiser for Weekday School. Tickets will include dinner, live music, a live auction and raffle items in addition to other entertainment. All are invited to attend and be a part of this fun evening. Please email Rebecca Santi, rebecca.santi@uccftw.com, for more information.

Important Summer Dates for Children's Minitries

Ignore the cold...families are already making plans for summer! Mark these dates on your calendar, you won't want to miss them!

Vacation Bible School June 26-29



Mark your calendars now so you can be a part of UCC Rolling River Rampage VBS (ages two to third graders) or Mission VBS (fourth and fifth graders).

VBS online registration for UCC members at ucckids.org will begin March 1 and continue through Apri 1.

Camps for Children and **Families at Disciples Crossing**



Join us in Walker Hall on Sunday, March 25 to sign up for camps and get the Early Bird Registration Rate.

- Grand Camp (children ages 4-10 with a grandparent): June 1-3
- Discovery Camp (completed first or second grade and a parent) June 8-10
- Family Camp at Disciples Crossing (families with at least one child under 18 and an adult over 21) I: May 25-27 or II: August 10-12
- JYF Camp I (completed third, fourth or fifth grade) July 2-6
- JYF Camp II (completed third, fourth or fifth grade) August 6-10 *Kera Watts will be co-directing

Summer Fun

Summer fun is for children two months old to entering Kindergarten. Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00am-12:00pm. Early Bird UCC member registration

begins February 18 (Early Bird rate is \$130 per session when completed by February 27). Open registration begins February 28, 8:30am to 10:00am in Walker Hall. Tuition is \$140 per child per session.

Printable registration forms available at ucckids.org. • Session 1 June 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20

• **Session 2** July 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25

Youth Ministry

UniversityChristian.org

Senior Banquet Celebrates UCC's High School Grads



You're invited to honor UCC's graduating high school seniors at the annual Senior Banquet on Wednesday, May 2 from 6:00–8:00pm in Walker Hall. The event will include tables decorated with pictures and memorabilia for each graduate, a photo slideshow, an introduction of each graduate, and opportunities to offer congratulations and best wishes for their continued faith journeys after high school. The catered dinner will cost \$10 per person, and reservations are required for dinner (but not to attend).

Please RSVP by contacting Robin Doyle, robin.doyle@uccftw.com, by Monday, April 30.

Youth Sunday • May 6

Youth will plan and lead the morning worship services for UCC's annual Youth Sunday on May 6. Our middle and high schoolers will plan and lead the elements of the worship service, decorate the sanctuary to match the theme, and provide special music. Please attend this morning of memorable worship that allows the whole church to hear and see how our young people understand and express their faith.



Youth Summer Mission Trips Register Now!

UCC's middle and high school youth will be learning and serving on two mission trips this summer. Youth in grades nine through twelve will travel to Portland, OR and Yakama, WA on the CYF Mission Trip, where they will work with Yakama Christian Mission. The group will fly to Portland on July 1 and return to DFW on July 8. The trip cost will be \$350 per person if registered by April 31, \$400 afterward. The Chi Rho Mission Trip for grades six through eight will spend four days serving with local organizations in Oklahoma City. The group will depart on Sunday afternoon, June 3 and return on Wednesday night, June 6. Trip cost is \$150 per person if registered by April 31, \$200 afterward. Full and half scholarships for both trips are available upon request.



For trip details and registration forms, visit uccyouth.org/missiontrips.



Upcoming Events

	When Month of February		Who	Contact/Sign-up
Toiletries Drive	Month of February			
		UCC	All	Michelle Groom mgroom@uccftw.com
_	Tuesday, February 13 S:00pm	Walker Hall	All	Rachel Ngurukie rachel.ngurukie@uccftw.com
Ash Wednesday Labyrinth W	Nednesday, February 14 1:00am–3:00pm, and follow	Walker Hall ing worship	All	Rev. Shannon Moore shannon.moore@uccftw.com
_	Wednesday, February 14 5:00pm	Walker Hall	All	Rev. Shannon Moore shannon.moore@uccftw.com
Men's 3rd Thursday Lunch F	_	Cafe Bella 3548 S. Hills Ave.	Men	Rev. Jessica Vacketta jessica@uccftw.com
	February 19, March 19 & April 16	Cat City Grill	Women	Rev. Cyndy Twedell cyndy@uccftw.com
I .	February 20, March 20 & April 17	Room 150	Women	Rev. Cyndy Twedell cyndy@uccftw.com
-	Tuesday, February 20 7:00pm	Walker Hall	All	Rev. Cyndy Twedell cyndy@uccftw.com
	Thursday, February 22 5:30pm	Boutique	All	Mary Ashley Ray mayray413@gmail.com
-	Friday, February 23 S:00pm	RSVP for address	Women	Michelle Groom mgroom@uccftw.com
I .	Sunday, February 25 2:15pm	Walker Hall	All	Michelle Groom mgroom@uccftw.com
	Sunday, February 25 2:00pm	Sanctuary	All	Rev. Todd Prickett todd.prickett@uccftw.com
	-	The Ginger Man on Camp Bowie	Ages 21 +	Rev. Jessica Vacketta jessica@uccftw.com
Spring Softball Season	March 1-April 27	Gateway Park	Ages 16+	Rev. Jessica Vacketta jessica@uccftw.com
1 -	Sunday, March 4 9:00am • 11:00am	Sanctuary	All	Rev. Shannon Moore shannon.moore@uccftw.com
	March 4, 11 and 18 0:00am	Room 201	All	Michelle Groom mgroom@uccftw.com
I .	Sunday, March 4 0:00–2:00pm	Room 207	All	Joyce Raessler jrcompanyjoyce@gmail.com
	•	Black Rooster, Avoca & Press Cafe	Women	Rev. Cyndy Twedell cyndy@uccftw.com
Spring Break Hurricane № Harvey Response	March 11-17	Corpus Christi, TX	All	Rev. Cyndy Twedell cyndy@uccftw.com

Event	When	Where	Who	Contact/Sign-up
Prom Dreams	March 22–May 5	Prom Dreams Boutique	All	promdreams@uccftw.com
Agape Feast	Sunday, March 25 6:00pm	Walker Hall	All	Rev. Kera Watts kera@uccftw.com
Easter Egg Hunt	Sunday, March 25 10:20am	Outside by The Garden	Children	Rev. Kera Watts kera@uccftw.com
Maundy Thursday Worship	Thursday, March 29 6:00pm	Sanctuary	All	Rev. Shannon Moore shannon.moore@uccftw.com
Good Friday Labyrinth	Friday, March 30 11:00am-6:00pm	Walker Hall	All	Rev. Shannon Moore shannon.moore@uccftw.com
Good Friday Worship Service	Friday, March 30 12:00pm	Walker Hall	All	Rev. Shannon Moore shannon.moore@uccftw.com
Easter Sunrise Service	Sunday, April 1 6:45am	Memorial Garden	All	Rev. Shannon Moore shannon.moore@uccftw.com
Easter Breakfast	Sunday, April 1 Following Sunrise Service	Room 150	All	Rev. Jessica Vacketta jessica@uccftw.com
Youth Summer Mission Trip Registrations	April-May	Various—See story on page 17	Youth	Vanessa Taber vanessa.taber@uccftw.com
WDS Spring Party	April 6	MOPAC Event Center	All	Robin Doyle robin.doyle@uccftw.com
Earth Stewardship Sunday	April 22 9:00am • 11:00am	Sanctuary	All	Rev. Cyndy Twedell cyndy@uccftw.com
Parents' Night Out	Friday, April 27 6:00–9:00pm	UCC	Children	Rev. Kera Watts kera@uccftw.com
Trinity Brazos Area Disciples Women's Retreat	April 27-29	Disciples Crossing	Women	Register at tbawm.com
May "Can" Food Challenge	Month of May	UCC Front Desk	All	Michelle Groom mgroom@uccftw.com
High School Senior Banquet	May 2 6:00-8:00pm	Walker Hall	All	Robin Doyle robin.doyle@uccftw.com
Church & The Arts Trip to Tulsa	May 4-6	Tulsa, OK	All	Rachel Ngurukie rachel.ngurukie@uccftw.com
Youth Sunday	May 6 9:00am • 11:00am	The Sanctuary	All	Jamie Plunkett jamie.plunkett@uccftw.com
Belltower Series: Elijah	Sunday, May 6 7:00pm	Sanctuary	All	Todd Prickett todd.prickett@uccftw.com
Visiting Scholar Talk: Dr. Matthias Henze	Wednesday, May 16 7:00pm	Room 207	All	Rev. Jessica Vacketta jessica@uccftw.com



2720 South University Drive Fort Worth, Texas 76109-1150 817-926-6631



Patty Poling, Editor & Designer • Michelle Groom, Circulation

The UCC Journal (USPS 019-016) is published monthly for \$15 per year by University Christian Church, 2720 South University Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76109-1150. The \$15 annual UCC Journal subscription is supported by tithes and offerings. Periodicals Postage Paid at Fort Worth, TX and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to UCC Journal, 2720 S. University Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76109.

Living the Good News of Jesus Christ with Open Minds and Loving Hearts.